



*Thrives in the shade*

## Planting Tips:

The river fern grows best in partial to full shade. It can withstand some drought, but thrives best with moist conditions.

This fern reproduces by spore production and root division. It is helpful to cut back the dead fronds before spring growth begins.

## Habitat:

The river fern is found in creeks, low woods, swamps, and along river banks.

## Visitor Education Center (VEC)

### About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



*River fern*

## MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: RIVER FERN

*(Thelypteris kunthii)*

**NMFH Visitor  
Education Center**

**Phone:** (662) 563-8068

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CR 36, Enid, MS 38927



*River fern*

## Description/Season:

This is a deciduous perennial fern with lime to medium green fronds. These fronds reach out from clusters of stalks and take on a bronze cast as winter approaches.

In the spring, the river fern begins to sprout as temperatures warm. In the fall, when temperatures drop, the river fern fronds die until the next spring.

## Size:

The river fern can grow from 2 to 5 feet tall, if growing conditions are favorable. The average height is 2 to 3 feet, and the average width is 8 to 12 inches.

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### ***Other Names:***

*Southern Shield Fern, Wood Fern, Kunth's Maiden Fern, and Normal Shield Fern.*

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*Green frond*



*River fern*

## Interesting Facts:

This fern is a low maintenance ground cover and is deer resistant.

Although it thrives in shade and moisture, it appears to “shriveled” and “burn” if planted in full sun.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.